

[Sherman Dolman]

LM D [???

FORM A Circumstances of Interview

NAME OF WORKER George Hartman ADDRESS 2438 W. Lincoln

DATE October [?] 17 , 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

1. Name and address of informant Sherman Delman
2. Date and time of interview 9-12, Monday
3. Place of interview 3050 W St.
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put in touch with informant 3050 W St.
5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you None
6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc.

Comfortable, but bare. C.-10[??]

FORM B Personal History of Informant

NAME OF WORKER George Hartman ADDRESS 2438 W. Lincoln

DATE October 17, 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Sherman Dolman 3050 N

1. Ancestry German

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2. Place and date of birth Vervan, Germany, 1863, September 4th.
3. Family
4. Places lived in, with dates Syracuse and Lincoln, Germany.
5. Education, with dates Went as far as 4th grade-dates not remembered.
6. Occupation and accomplishments, with dates Blacksmith for 40 years. Painter since 1920-1938.
7. Special skills and interests Blacksmithing for 40 years.
8. Community and religious activities German Lutheran, baptised in
9. Description of informant 75 yrs. of age. Lived and seen Nebraska grow. Slightly deaf but hardy.
10. Other points gained in interview

Worked hard all his life. Lived honestly and expects others to. A good man with a good record.

FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

NAME OF WORKER George Hartman ADDRESS 2438 W. Lincoln

DATE October 17, 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT 3050 N St., Lincoln

I was born in Vervan, Germany and came here at six years of age. We came to Nursery Hill on the old Oregon trail.

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We lived on the Nemaha. We went to school a mile away. We bought a little house about 16 feet long and 8 foot wide. There was three of us in the family. My father was a blacksmith.

The first thing that happened in 1869 we met with "false faces" and that scared us kids to death almost. This was new to me and naturally we were scared.

A herd of Texas cattle came in as we were fishing one day, and we climbed up into trees and set their for hours waiting for them to leave. The cattle had horns that were very long. The rangers were driving them up from Texas. In the winter we saw the Nemaha half full of dead cattle. The cattle would go down to drink and get stuck in the mud and drown.

The first time I saw Indians I was scared. The Indians came through. The savage look of them and the way they was dressed scared me.

I learned the blacksmithing trade from my father. I'd stand on a cracker box and throw burlap sacks on my feet to keep from the hot scales. I would strike for three men. Striking means using a sledge for pounding breaking plow-legs.

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The first railroad came through Nebraska in 1870. The first excursion the train had flat cars with willows stuck in the posts around the cars for shade, we had railroad ties for seats, and had a big time coming up to Lincoln. This was 1870 and was the first train that ever carried excursion passengers. It took [3?] hours to come the 55 miles to Lincoln. In 1875 that same train was held up by a hord of grasshoppers. So thick they greased the track so the train couldn't run.

In those days Nebraska was loaded with all kinds of wild game and fur bearing animals. Wild chickens in the trees in the winter time that would cover 160 acres.

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Hundreds and hundreds of them. You could go out and get a mess of quail anytime. They would hit the telegraph wire and get killed by the thousands. They would hit the wires and they would go 200 feet before they would fall dead. We could pick up at least 25 chickens almost every day that had hit the wires along the poles for a mile.

It's the only bird that would hit the wires and get killed.

In 1910 I came to Lincoln where I engaged in painting. The progress in Nebraska has been wonderful and unbelievable. When I first came here it was all wild prairie, and I have seen it built up all these years.

The worst depression, was in the late seventies. Far worse than the present. We lived on sorgum and corn-meal. Clothes sent from the east and we went barefooted most of the time. Grasshoppers caused this great depression. We used to see slough hay about six feet tall and is something we dont see today.